



CAMERON HOUSE

金美倫堂

Quarterly
Newsletter

Spring
2014

CURRENT

Tina Shum, Happy Retirement!

Celebrating 33 Years of Service and Commitment in the Community

Interviewed and Written by Yulanda Kwong, Director of Social Services Ministry



"It's a blessing to be working at Cameron House for 33 years," Tina Shum expressed during her interview. Tina has surely offered her love and care through her service in the Asian American community. During the many years of

working at Cameron House, Tina learned a lot, helped strengthen and rebuild people's lives, and strove to make changes. Her strong Christian faith has motivated her to work at Cameron House since 1980. With a social work education from Hong Kong, Tina was recruited by the late and honorable Rev. Dr. Ernest Wu, Christian Social Services Director. Tina had already known about Cameron House back in 1971 when her then boyfriend, Rev. James Shum, came to Cameron House from Hong Kong for three months as a volunteer. Not only was it a blessing for Tina to have the opportunity to work at Cameron House, it was a blessing for the Cameron House community to have Tina carry out her ministry here.

What kept you motivated to stay working at Cameron House (CH) for 33 years?

There are two main things. One is that I enjoy working at a Christian environment and a place where we're really serving people. I understand the Chinese culture and can speak English, so I want to use my skills and knowledge to help the Chinese community, especially those who have language barriers and have challenges in their lives. The second thing is that this job is very satisfying to me. When a client is helpless and desperate in seeking assistance, and if I can lend him or her a

helping hand or give them a little lift so that they can stand back on their own two feet, come out of their crisis and blossom, that feeling is very rewarding.

What was the most challenging experience that you encountered at CH?

Finding attorneys and pro-bono attorneys to work with low-income families. When I first started this job, it was very difficult to find low-cost or no-cost attorneys to help our families. Of course, it's still difficult today, but there are a lot more attorneys today and some can speak the client's language and understand their culture. Another challenge is that sometimes I get disappointed when we cannot help client's reach their expectations. Sometimes there are different factors and circumstances that impact their case. Even though I am pouring my heart out and trying my best to help the clients, some of them may not be 100% satisfied or feel that we're not doing enough. Sometimes this is discouraging for me. How do we let them understand that we've tried our best? A third challenge was how to promote the services of CH to the community and other agencies so that people could be more familiar with what we do. I know that we've been doing more reach out now, but we need to continue and do even more.

What was the most memorable moment for you at CH?

Seeing the cohesiveness of volunteers and staff. We're like a family. From my experience working at other agencies, there are personnel issues and struggles, which I don't like. At CH, people try to compromise and work together even when there are differences in opinions or perspectives. It's a blessing working here. We try to truly help each other.

I see that CH is slowly expanding its services. There are new changes. I also want to see more education in the community about the services of CH. The name of CH is

A Message from the Executive Director



Honoree Karina Cheuk with May Leong and Tom Pong, Board President

This year's Heart, Soul & Elegance Gala was an amazing success thanks to everyone who joined in helping us raise more than \$160,000. We had a full house with over 450 people in attendance. Thanks to all of the guests who came and especially to the generous donors who helped to underwrite seats for youth, volunteers, and other attendees through the *Be My Guest* program. Your gifts helped to make sure no one was left out because of the ticket price.

What a great way to begin the Year of the Horse! We hope you enjoyed the Dessert Dash and the laughter that ensued! This activity helped to raise over \$6,600! What a fantastic start to a new tradition! Thanks to David and Melanie Gin for being our Dessert Dash leaders and making this all happen. If you haven't seen it, check out the Dessert Dash video created by Josh Chuck on our website.

Did you groove to the sounds of *Jest Jammin'*? Norman Fong and his band played a variety of music and the feedback was unanimous – everyone enjoyed dancing to classic rock, R&B, 50's, 60's, and Latin rhythms! It was the perfect mix of medleys.

The Fund-A Need was our most exciting one yet. Thanks to your generous raising of hands, more than \$48,000 was raised to purchase a new mini-van and maintain our vans so we can *Go Places* with our kids!

We enjoyed honoring the dedication, passion, and heart from our long-time community leaders: Karina Cheuk, The Reverend Gregory L. Chan & Jeanine A. Lim, and Kenneth & Josephine Kwong.

Thanks again to everyone who made this celebration of 140 years of service a memorable and successful one! We look forward to seeing you throughout the year: at Carnival, a film event, Tea with May, or a volunteer opportunity such as Thursday Food Pantry.

In the spirit of love,

May Leong

Executive Director



Honorees Jeanine Lim and Greg Chan with daughter Kati Chan



Honorees Josie and Ken Kwong with May Leong and Tom Pong



Thanks to the SFO Charity Golf Tournament!

On a warm sunny day last October, the 14th Annual San Francisco International Airport Charity Golf Tournament was held at the Green Hills Country Club in Millbrae. Chairperson Bob Massola (of the SFPD Airport Bureau) and the rest of the Tournament Board of Directors did a great job organizing this event. Cameron House was chosen to be one of the beneficiaries of their hard work along with Little Brothers—Friends of the Elderly. Some of the Cameron House staff helped out during the event by greeting golfers, handing out lunch boxes, and selling raffle tickets on the green. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner at the clubhouse. Our Executive Director, May Leong, spoke briefly to introduce Cameron House to this new audience.

The event was so successful—raising \$60,000!—that they added two other local charities to share a smaller portion of the proceeds. On December 12, 2013, a

check presentation ceremony was held at the SFO Aviation Museum. Staff from Cameron House happily accepted a check for **\$25,000!** We are very grateful for this generous gift and all the hard work Bob and the tournament committee put in to make this such a fun and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



Thank you for the \$25,000!

RESPECT! Challenge Winner

Congratulations to Friday Night Club Leader and Cameron House alumnus Casey Chow for being the **national winner** of Futures Without Violence RESPECT! Challenge last November. Casey was chosen from over 2,000 entrants!

Casey chose Cameron House as the recipient of the \$10,000 donation prize and gave the trip for two to New York to his parents. He would like to thank many people for this opportunity, including his father, for inspiring him to write and shoot the winning video. Casey credits his former Club Leader, Vincent Chan, for encouraging him to be a Club leader and continue volunteering in the community.

Cameron House would like to thank Futures Without Violence for such a creative contest, as well as the work

and services that they provide the community. You can learn more about them at <http://futureswithoutviolence.com/>! We also thank Macy's whose generous support made The RESPECT! Challenge possible.

Congratulations, Casey!

Watch the award-winning video Unconditional Love on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QAeagGVcAw>.



Casey Chow (holding check) next to his proud parents.

Summer Programs Registration Begins Now!

After 60 years, Cameron House Summer Programs are still going strong. This summer, programs begin **June 16th** and conclude **August 1st**. For more information and to register, please visit:

www.cameronhouse.com/summer

Last year we enrolled 289 campers and 80 leaders. We also distributed a record amount of financial aid to give more youth an opportunity to join our summer community. If you'd like to help send youth to our programs, please contact the Cameron House Development Office at marijana@cameronhouse.org.

Where are you?

Please help us update our records and serve you better! Have you moved recently or changed your email or phone number?

We'd like to know your communication preferences. Email or snail mail? Business, home, or cell phone? Call us at 415.781.0401 or email info@cameronhouse.org. Thank you!



“It Takes Leadership”

On October 23, Wells Fargo held a reception for its 2013 Asian Connection—Bay Area Community Non-Profit Awards & Team Member Recognition. They celebrated in style with a lovely buffet and performances of modern Asian dance by the Roosevelt Middle School Dancers and a Lion Dance by the Chung Ngai Dance Troupe.

Enterprise Leadership Team Executive President Atul Kamra kicked off the event by explaining that Asian team members “want to be understood...to be included” and that they’re increasing awareness of how Asians are making a difference in their communities.

We’re very proud of Cameron House alumni Charlene and Dana Jung who were recognized for their leadership and volunteerism. Charlene was in Enterprise Marketing, and Dana was in Community Banking. Along with this honour, Char and Dana got to direct a \$5,000 award from Wells Fargo—and they chose Cameron House!

The presentation was accompanied by a photo montage and kind words spoken by their colleague, Matthew Raphaelson. Dana spoke of “lots of opportunities for leadership and involvement” and advised the audience to “invest your time.” Char added, “Leadership roles come in many shapes...community

nonprofits need you.” She went on to describe Cameron House as a safe haven for kids, a second home where the doors are always open, and a place where seniors can get help.

Char also introduced Executive Director, May Leong, by saying that in the six months May had been at Cameron House, she had done more than Obama and Congress!

Cameron House would like to congratulate our sister organizations in Chinatown, Gum Moon Women’s Residence and the Asian Women’s Shelter, who were also Community Award Winners along with the East Bay Asian Youth Center and The Sikh Coalition. We’re grateful to Char & Dana for their generosity and to Wells Fargo for honoring the contributions of their Asian employees and worthy nonprofits in their community. Thank you all for your support!



Charlene Jung, May Leong, and Dana Jung accepting an award from Wells Fargo.

Tea with May

Have you met our Executive Director yet? May Leong has been hosting informal gatherings since she joined us last April. These tea dates are an opportunity for you to ask questions and share your Cameron House stories with May. In turn, May enjoys getting to know more members of the Cameron House community and sharing her vision for the future. Tea with May is a time for fellowship, so you will not be asked for donations. To make a reservation for one of the following dates, please call Mary Wong Leong at 415-781-0401.

May 24th, Saturday, 1:00pm - 2:30pm, South Bay location TBA

July 10th, Thursday, 8:00am - 9:30am, location TBA

Oct 3rd, Friday, 12 noon - 1:30pm, location TBA



Thanks for the Giving

Our youth staff, students, and social services volunteer group, the Friends of Cameron House (FOCH), teamed up to raise funds for the 2013 Harvest Home program. Thousands of dollars were raised to buy Chinese foodstuffs for 170 families. Youth received leadership training and worked very hard with staff and FOCH to fill bags to pass out to disadvantaged families in Chinatown. Harvest Home has been a popular and successful program for many years, and we are thankful for the compassion shown by the community to make Thanksgiving a special day for everyone.



The Girl Fire

by Kimberly Young

I know a girl who is fire
Her secrets she keeps under her sleeve
Perforated pink on her arm
Contrasting the ivory from her father
and the golden from her mother
She does not know how beautiful she is.
Instead, she looks to boys with barely beating hearts
and galaxy infested eyes
for post it note reminders.
"The sun, sets on him," she tells me
before he leaves her to her humiliation
She is the second heart he has stepped on this month.
Like a fall leaf on the sidewalk softened by winter
She now means nothing to him.

I cannot stand here and let you crumble
so shake the dust
and chin up, kid.
You are a forest fire spreading.
The trees are your
rib cage
sternum
scapulae
clavicle
Your phalanges scrawl notes in the smoke
Here I am trying to reply to them.
Instead I am left with these scars
you do not know you leave.
After I have done all that I can,
I will pray for rain.
I will wait for the skies to clear
And the birds to sing again.

I know a girl who is fire
And though I have to constantly remind myself
I am neither her water nor her match
I will be there to nurture her green buds of life
that sprout through the blackness.
I will build her a secret garden
So that the next time the brush begins to spark
She will be reminded of how beautiful she is.



Artists-in-Residence Program

January and February are a time for arts and creative expression at Friday Night Club. This year, we had professional performing artists Lenora Lee, Francis Wong, and Corey Chan hold workshops with our youth. They shared the art of storytelling in movement, music composition, and dragon dancing. These workshops culminated in the 5th Annual Visual and Performing Arts festival. We had 22 youth submissions of various live performing arts and youth-created videos! Talented youth entertained us with singing, dancing, poetry, videos, and one brave stand up comedy routine. Check them out at the Cameron House YouTube account: youtube.com/cameronhouse.



Enjoying the pool at West.

Westminster Woods

Save the date! This year, our annual Westminster Woods residence camp will take place from Sunday August 10th to Friday August 15th. An annual highlight for our youth, we will continue developing our theme of acceptance and creating a safe environment for everyone in our community. Registration forms will be available soon!

ACBA Basketball

This year, 12 of our high school youth from the Friday Night Club program participated in the Asian Community Basketball Association (ACBA), a winter basketball league that Cameron House helped charter. After months of practice and guidance from coaches Casey Chow and Derrick Cheuk, we are proud to say that the ACBA Cameron House Cangeroos finished 1st place in the B-Silver division! The team showed great camaraderie and heart. They will end their season with a group service project working with Chinatown Community Development Center's Adopt-an-Alleyway program. Great job guys!



CHYA Musical

After a four-year hiatus, the Cameron House young adults returned with their third musical performance! **Band of Brothers: A Bromantic Comedy** kicked off the New Year with three nights of singing and laughter. Thank you to all those who came out to support the young adults. Together, we were able to raise over \$3,000 for Cameron House ministries! If you couldn't make the show, it's not too late to order a DVD! Just email Chris Cheuk at chris@cameronhouse.org.



Tina Shum (Continued, Page 1)

misleading. Just by the name, people don't know what CH is really about. Right now, we have to explain what CH does in one short paragraph. If there is a slogan that captures the spirit of CH, that would be ideal. I want to see CH be prosperous and shine.

It's always a pleasure to listen to Tina share her experiences and stories. One learns so much from her. During the last two months before her official retirement on January 1, 2014, Tina was honored by different community agencies and partners. Tina was actively involved with other community advocates

in supporting women and children experiencing domestic violence and human trafficking; counseling gamblers and their family members to deal with problem gambling; assisting in a research study conducting educational classes to help overseas-born Chinese manage their diabetes through behavioral changes; and supporting individuals and families to thrive and live self-sufficiently.

We hope that Tina will have a relaxing and wonderful retirement and wish her all the best as she steps into the next chapter on her life's journey.



Josh Chuck
Alumni and Special Projects Coordinator



Annie Luu
Development Assistant



Karen Chu
Domestic Violence Case Manager

KAREN CHU joined Cameron House in November 2013 as a Domestic Violence Case Manager with the Social Services Ministry. She is bilingual and bi-cultural in Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) and English. Her duties and responsibilities include providing case management, intervention, and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. Apart from this, Karen will also be coordinating and facilitating the Cantonese Women's Support Group.

Karen was born and raised in Hong Kong. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Juris Doctor degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. After graduation, Karen was determined to work in the nonprofit sector, and feels very blessed to have the opportunity to serve the community at Cameron House.

People You'll Meet at Cameron House

JOSH CHUCK has been involved with Cameron House his entire life and is happy to be back on staff as the Alumni and Special Projects Coordinator. He has previously served Cameron House youth programs in many ways including three years as Associate Director for Youth Ministries from 2007-2010. Josh has also coordinated the UPS Community Internship Program, a community immersion partnership between UPS and Cameron House, for the last 11 years.

Josh's interests include sports, travel, and filmmaking. He is happy to be living and working in San Francisco's Chinatown again and is looking forward to further connecting alumni to the meaningful work Cameron House does.

ANNIE LUU joined Cameron House in December 2013 as the Development Assistant. She grew up in an immigrant household and understands some of the challenges immigrants and their children experience. While in college, Annie volunteered for nonprofit organizations including the ACLU of Northern California, On Lok Lifeways, and Neighborhood Housing Services of Silicon Valley. These volunteer experiences helped her gain a better understanding that community involvement, education, and resources contribute to thriving communities.

Annie wanted to serve the immigrant population of San Francisco, so after completing a bachelor's degree in Sociology from San Jose State University, she searched for organizations with that mission. She is happy to be a part of the Cameron House family. Her favorite part of the day is when the kids excitedly charge through the doors of Cameron House for the Bilingual Afterschool Program.



DONALDINA CAMERON HOUSE

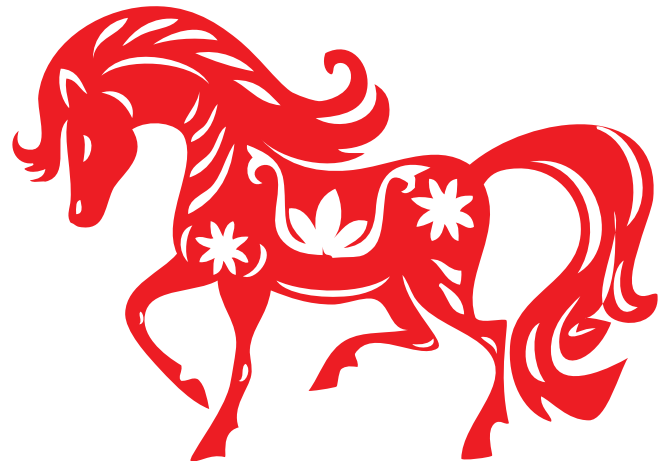
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Save the date!

The 66th Annual Cameron Carnival

Saturday, May 3, 2014 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
920 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, CA 94108



The whole family can enjoy this unique community event. This Chinatown tradition features one-of-a-kind games and prizes created by our youth. We have a new hot meal featuring **Cochinita Pibil (Mayan Pork)**. Other attractions include a bakery, barbecue, jump-house, dunk tank, and goldfish booth--all at affordable prices. Get custom-made jewelry, a therapeutic massage, and watch an original musical by local high-schoolers! All proceeds benefit Cameron House, a nonprofit serving the Asian community for 140 years.

ALL AGES FREE ADMISSION

Call 415-781-0401 for more information or go to cameronhouse.org.